

about all of my minute but I would say this, that I will support this move but I will certainly keep a watch on it and if that department issues regulations as they have been doing, I think we definitely need the Rules and Regs. Committee to be ready to look over those regulations.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Senator Vickers, I will be watching it even closer than you because I have had an interest in this for about five years as members that have been here know.

PRESIDENT: There is a motion on the desk, Mr. Clerk. All right, so we will go ahead then with the DeCamp... Senator Schmit, you are next.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I appreciate that Senator Vickers and Senator DeCamp are going to be watching those rules and regulations because I can tell you very frankly what is going to happen. They are going to watch them and nothing is going to happen. The Department of Banking is going to continue to, I would say harass, the investors who want to invest money in exploration for oil and gas in Nebraska. I can tell you very frankly that it has happened in the past. LB 496 is needed as written. The amendment offered by Senator DeCamp should not even be considered. The explanation given to us that some communities want to be able to use that amendment to construct a gasohol plant is stretching the gasohol argument about as far as I have heard it stretched in the nine years that I have been active in the gasohol movement. I have seen all kinds of hypocrisy and I have seen all kinds of...well I don't want to say shyster activity, but I have never ever seen the Banking Department go to the length they are going in this area to try to get an amendment to a bill because they are trying to kill the bill. That is all they are trying to do is to kill the bill. Now if you want to buy that kind of activity then go ahead and do it but be fully aware of what you are doing. You are not making a minor change in legislation. You are making a major change. I want to say in defense of the Department of Banking, that there have been some problems with some of these limited partnerships and they have been doing a good job of ferreting out some of the skullduggery that took place but as so often happens, as so often happens, the legitimate business people are also being penalized. Now at a time when we need to explore for oil and gas, at a time when we may be shut off from the fuel supplies in the Middle East, even the relatively meager amounts of oil and gas that may exist in Nebraska need to be developed. If we adopt the DeCamp